

WYCOMBE READY FOR THE DECIDER

Sports
post

WYCOMBE Wanderers travel to Slough Town tomorrow (Saturday) for their third meeting with their local rivals this season. With the two Isthmian League matches going either way, this Berks and Bucks Senior Cup third round tie will be the decider.

The first of the league games was at Loakes Park on December 3 when Slough won 3-1. The Blues avenged that reverse later in the month by winning 3-0 at Wexham Park. Whether they can motivate themselves for a similar performance in the Senior Cup remains to be seen.

Wanderers hope to have full back Paul Birdseye fit in time. He injured a shoulder at Bridgend and did not train on Tuesday but is expected to be able to play. Birdseye is an important link in Wycombe's defensive chain and it was his tackling at Slough that did much to clinch the victory. Apart from Birdseye, the Blues have no injury problems.

Slough on the other hand are likely to be without Dave Russell who has a pulled muscle. There are also doubts over Phil Beal and Bob Underwood who both sustained ankle injuries in the F.A. Trophy games against Maidstone. Should Beal be fit, ex-Wanderer Terry Reardon is likely to move in a four man midfield.

Peter Feely, substitute on Wycombe's last visit, will probably play upfront.

Slough's replay with Maidstone on Tuesday was abandoned soon into extra time due to frost. The Rebels missed their chance when Alan Gane saw his

penalty saved and Maidstone equalised with five minutes left. The teams replay on Monday on a neutral ground and the winners face a trip to Cheshire League champions Winsford, who put out top Northern Premier League club Northwich Victoria in the first round.

On Tuesday Wycombe entertain Staines Town in the Hitachi Isthmian League Cup. Wanderers have already beaten Staines 3-1 away and 4-0 at home in the league this season.

At present, manager John Reardon is busy searching for players to bolster his squad. Farouk Quraishi leaves for America today (Friday) with Tampa Bay Rowdies and this leaves John with only 15 players, including two goalkeepers. The manager hopes to announce some new signings soon.

Should tomorrow's Senior Cup tie end drawn, the replay will not affect Wycombe's League Cup game at home to Staines on Tuesday as Slough will be in action the previous night (Monday) against Maidstone. No date has yet been fixed for a possible replay.

Amersham Town have named a team with an attacking bias for their crunch local derby tie with Chalfont St Peter in tomorrow's quarter final at Spratley's Meadow.

Manager Richard Jerome and

coach Alan Ackrall have taken the bold step of starting the match with only three men in the back line. There is room for Bob Garner and Paul Terpilowski and new boy Colin Tyler takes his place after only one appearance for the club.

Amersham officials are hoping for a good display against the Saints to further their bid to be admitted to the Kingsmead Athenian League of which Chalfont are prominent members. The line up is: Redwood, Breakspear, Lammin, Bruton, Hayfield, Harris, Holland, Reynier, Tyler, Griffiths, Byron. Subs from Walshe, Jacobs, Tackley.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (up to and inc. 16/1/78)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	26	21	4	1	62	16	67
Wycombe	26	17	2	7	46	28	53
Leatherhead	26	14	7	5	46	23	49
Hitchin	26	13	7	6	43	30	46
Carshalton	27	12	7	8	46	38	43
Tooting	27	12	7	8	38	33	43
Croydon	26	12	6	8	41	34	42
Hayes	28	12	6	10	36	37	42
Dagenham	26	12	5	9	47	39	41
Sutton	24	11	5	8	32	34	38
Staines	24	10	7	7	30	33	37
Hendon	27	10	6	11	36	37	36
Barking	27	10	4	13	43	45	34
Walthamstow	22	8	7	7	34	34	31
Boreham Wd	26	8	6	12	35	45	30
Slough	26	8	5	13	34	45	29
Kingstonian	27	6	7	14	29	39	25
Woking	22	6	3	13	34	41	21
Southall	26	4	9	13	28	48	21
Leytonstone	28	3	11	14	29	48	20
Tilbury	22	4	7	11	31	41	19
Stortford	27	3	6	18	26	60	15

Blues out of luck again

WYCOMBE Wanderers were out of luck yet again when the second round draw of the FA Trophy was made at Lancaster Gate on Monday.

The Blues were drawn away from home for the sixth successive time in this competition. On this occasion they must travel to Goole of the Northern Premier League on February 4.

For Wanderers, who overcame Bridgend in the first round 1-0 on Saturday, this is the second year running they have met a team from the North. Last season they were beaten 2-1 at Runcorn in the second round.

Goole Town are currently 13th in the table with 23 points from 25 games while they have

already beaten New Brighton of the Cheshire League 2-0 and Northern League side Tow Law 3-1 in the early rounds of the trophy.

Their best-ever run in the trophy came two seasons ago when they reached the quarter-final and were beaten 1-0 by eventual winners Matlock. An own goal put them out. In the FA Cup this year they gained revenge by beating Matlock 2-1 but then went out in the first round 3-1 at Spennymoor.

The facilities at Goole are reputed to be good with a wide,

open pitch which is regarded as one of the best playing surfaces in the area. Average league attendances are between 800-900 and the club is expecting over 2,000 for the Wycombe game.

Wanderers' manager John Reardon will be looking at the opposition. On hearing the draw he said: "This is bound to be a tough one for us, but at this stage of the competition no game is easy."

Travelling arrangements have not yet been finalised but it is thought that Wycombe will be going by train after the success of last week's Bridgend trip.

Wycombe's Supporters Club will be running a train up to Goole and further details will be announced next week.

SIR,

The committee, officers and players of Wycombe Wanderers FC would like to take this opportunity of publicly thanking the chairman, officers and members of the committee of Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Club for their efficient organisation of the special train to Bridgend for last Saturday's FA Trophy match.

Everybody worked very hard to ensure that the team and supporters had a comfortable journey and were very adequately supplied with refreshments.

It was a very enjoyable occasion, made more so by the victory, and the excellent support given to the team. I am sure that British Railways look forward to providing further service to Wycombe Wanderers as an example of how supporters should behave.

The club were very proud of their supporters and to them we say a big thankyou. Captain Keith Mead and his players hope they conveyed their thanks as they worked their way through the whole length of the train on the homeward journey.

We look forward to repeating the experience.

J. Goldsworthy
Hon. Secretary
Wycombe Wanderers F.C.

Postponed

WYCOMBE Wanderers' Youth team game in the Berger Paints Cup at St Albans on Wednesday was postponed due to the weather. Next youth match is away to Wembley on Wednesday.

Floodlights

AMERSHAM Town FC are placed in the lower reaches of the Philips Floodlighting Competition Region 7 table midway through the season. They have picked up 13 points from eight games while Gray's Athletic lead the way with 25 from the same number of matches. The winners of each of the eight regions will go into the national finals at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham, on Sunday, May 14.